

**Summary**

The invention relates to virus like particles, their preparation and their use in pharmaceutical screening and functional genomics. The invention further provides a variety of assay formats to be used with said virus like particles.

1. A virus like particle (VLP) comprising a nucleic acid sequence and a protein coat, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is a viral genome or a viral genome fragment, and the protein coat is a viral capsid or a viral capsid fragment, and the VLP is capable of infecting a cell and replicating within the cell.